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Title: Need to increase the pension under Employees Pension Scheme, 1995.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): There are around 35 lakh pensioners under the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995. More than 80% of these pensioners receive paltry sum as pension which is even Re. 1/- in a good number of cases. This is a mockery of the whole system of pension itself.

There has been a demand to fix a moderate pension scheme for these pensioners. It is under such a necessity that the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) EPFO on the recommendations of the Expert Committee dated 12th June 2009 had recommended a minimum of Rs. 1000/- as pension to these pensioners. It is understood that the CBT have further recommended the following:-

(a) the existing Government contribution to EPS, 1995 to be raised from the existing 1.6% to 1.79% so as to increase the minimum pension to Rs.1000/-; and (b) the additional cost involved could be met by withdrawing grant of two year bonus after completion of 20 years. This will also provide relief up to 5% to those pensioners who are drawing pension of Rs.1000/- and more.

The Government has been introducing various welfare measures including the Food Security Bill, etc as a social commitment to the citizens. While there is a suggestion for increasing the minimum pension to Rs.1000/- as part of the social commitment it is suggested that this amount is too less in the present context and it should be increased to Rs.3000/- per month.

In view of the same, it is requested to consider the subject matter as a welfare measure and sanction Rs. 3000/- as pension to the EPF beneficiaries. This will give a larger security cover to 35 lakh working class.